

Raymond and Edna May Soper Collection

Collection received January 2013

Donated by Dick Metz, son of Edna May Soper and stepson of Ray Soper.

This collection is composed of photographs, newspaper clippings, certificates, and poems related to the lives of Edna May and Raymond Soper. Edna May and Raymond were longtime Claremont residents. Raymond worked predominantly as a citrus grower and is well known as a collector of Southern California citrus labels. Edna May, his wife, was a local teacher and principal as well as an active member of the Claremont Planning Commission and well known as a world traveler and philanthropist.

1 box. Includes 1 photo album and 11 loose photographs. Approximately 20 newspaper clippings and certificates. Includes 6 original poems by Richard Armour written for Edna May or Ray Soper.

Folder 1

Family Photo Album with attached note written by Ray Soper. "A lifetime of pictures. Ray Soper. Book 1.

Page 1

Raymond Soper with Frank Crowley. Date unknown.

Page 2

newspaper clipping of wedding announcement

Raymond Soper May 1979

Edna May and Raymond Soper 1980

Raymond Soper 1972

Postcard "Aunt Mary Soper" and Elizabeth (last name illegible). Sources indicate that she was Raymond's step-grandmother and president of the W.C.T.U.

Page 3

Raymond and Edna May in front of San Antonio Gardens, February 1986.

Dog, unknown date

Raymond Soper, May 1979

Lemon grove in Claremont, 1972

Page 4

Raymond in front of 520 Yale Ave., date unknown

Raymond receiving an award, date unknown

Raymond, Edna, and Richard Metz in front of San Antonio Gardens, date unknown

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Raymond Soper photo with note from Susan S. Shull of the W.C.T.U. of La Verne, January 27, 1978.

Raymond Soper, date unknown

520 Yale Ave., February 1991.

Raymond Soper, date unknown

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Raymond Soper with Navel tree in Riverside, Ca., 1982

Raymond Soper, date unknown
Charter Oak fruit label
Raymond birthday, date unknown
520 Yale Ave., 1987

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“Dayten party”, 1972
Raymond birthday party, date unknown
Raymond birthday party, date unknown
Raymond birthday party, date unknown
Raymond and Joe Godde at Godde Ranch, Quartz Hill, November 1971

Page 8

Holiday dinner, date unknown
Pinnacle Navel Sunkist label
Cat, date unknown
Cats, 1965
Raymond and unknown subject, December 1971
Cats, date unknown

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520 Yale Ave. with new roof, 1989
520 Yale Ave. with new roof, 1989
520 Yale Ave. with new roof, 1989
Raymond Soper, date unknown
Raymond with orchard heaters, date unknown

Page 10

Citrus grove, date and location unknown
Raymond, Edna May, and Dick Metz
Unknown female citrus packers, date unknown
Single citrus tree, date and location unknown

Page 11

Raymond and Navel orange tree, date unknown

Page 12

Grove and home photographed by Alice Soper, October 22, 1939.
Fruit Street home, La Verne Heights, approximately 1909.
Postcard. 1640 Palomares Ave., La Verne. Built approximately 1880 and sold to R.T. Soper by Jose DeSoto according to caption on back.
Bonita High School Commencement announcement, June 15, 1922.
520 Yale Ave., June 1961

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Citrus label display at Claremont Public Library, August 1982.
Photo of fruit label wall décor
Unknown home with fruit crate and orchard heater, date unknown
“Chas” with Ford automobile, date unknown
Raymond in conductor uniform with unknown man, date unknown

Page 14

Raymond in citrus grove, date unknown
Raymond and Edna May with prop horse drawn carriage, date unknown

- Group of 4 women, date unknown
- Raymond and 2 men and 1 woman, date unknown
- Raymond and Morning Glory citrus label
- Page 15
 - Raymond and citrus label
 - 520 Yale Ave., Summer 1987
 - Photo of citrus label
 - Charter Oak citrus label
 - Handwritten note on lemon carton sizes
- Page 16
 - Raymond and orchard heaters.
 - Clipping from nursery letterhead
- Page 17
 - Westways magazine article on collectability of smudge pots, December, year unknown.
- Page 18
 - Pacific Coast Nurseryman newsletter cover, 1952
- Page 19
 - Citrus grove photo by A.W. Wilsden of Ontario, date and subjects unknown
- Page 20
 - Corona College Heights Orange and Lemon Association group photo, 1970

Folder 2

Eleven loose photographs spanning two decades. Last date indicated is 1996.

Page 1

- Edna Mae, June 1985
- Group of five women, one is Edna Mae. Date unknown
- Raymond with orchard heaters, date unknown
- Raymond, date unknown

Page 2

- Edna Mae, date unknown
- Edna Mae and Raymond, May 8, 1996
- Raymond, date unknown

Page 3

- Raymond with Navel orange tree, brief handwritten history of fruit on back
- 520 Yale Ave., date unknown
- Raymond, Edna Mae, son, and two unidentified people. Date unknown

Page 4

- 8x10 of Raymond at Werner Weredell's grove, 1983

Page 5

- Raymond, graduation photo by Hartsook Photo Studio. Date unknown

Folder 3

11 Newspaper articles.

Article written by Edna May Simpson regarding graduation exercises in the Redman School District. Date unknown.

Claremont Courier August 2, 1972. "It's Nice to be On Working Terms with Mother Nature"

Claremont Courier, September 1982. "The Soper Family"

Progress Bulletin, October 2, 1988. "Citrus Label Quilt Tells its Own Story"

Tribune (unknown detail), October 29, 1992. "Ex-principal Still Charter Oak Champion"

Claremont Courier Almanac cover, 1992-1993. Raymond Soper cover.

Claremont Courier, February 19, 1994. Untitled article on Raymond Soper's exhibit of citrus crate labels.

Claremont Courier, September 7, 1996. Obituary, Edna May Soper.

Unknown source, 1996. Obituary, Edna May Soper.

The Glendoran, November-December, 1996. "Saint or Angel?" Tribute to Edna May Soper.

4 Certificates of recognition.

1969. Congratulations card from Assemblyman Peter F. Schabarum on the occasion of Edna May Soper's retirement from the Charter Oak School District.

1993. From the California State Senate, California Legislature Assembly and Los Angeles County marking Edna May and Raymond Sopes as Honored Citizens at the Claremont Fourth of July parade.

Folder 4

Richard Armour poems and program notes. Original, typewritten copies.

Program notes, date unknown. Related to an exhibition of citrus labels belonging to Ray Soper.

Poem. July 5, 1975. "For Edna May on her Forthcoming Trip"

Poem. August 16, 1977. "For Edna May"

Poem. February 20, 1978. "Birthday Greetings to Ray"

Poem. 1981. "To Raymond Soper on his Birthday, 1981"

Poem, 1982. "Tribute to the Golden Years"